

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 10, and 21 have been amended. Claim 30 has been canceled. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pickett, U.S. Patent No. 6,154,465.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Pickett

Pickett was previously discussed. It is noted that in figure 3, 50 represents a communications system, whereas 24 merely represents a user's computer connected to the communications system.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is not anticipated by Pickett. Claim 1 recites, "determining, at the first telecommunications system, that the telephone call will be transferred to an auto attendant running on a second telecommunications system, wherein the second telecommunications system is remote from the first telecommunications system."

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of the computer 24 as a second telecommunications system. Although Pickett discusses computer 24 running an office attendant type program, Pickett appears to teach that the "computers coupled to communications system 50" do not constitute separate communications systems, but merely "computing, peripheral or similar devices suitable for interconnection with" the communications system 50. (Pickett at col. 18, line 11 and col. 6, lines 3-4). Referring to figure 2, Pickett clearly refers to communication system 50 and computer 24 as separate and distinct. Therefore, because Pickett consistently refers to communications systems with the reference number 50, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of computer 24 as a telecommunications system. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 2-9, which depend from claim 1, are in a condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 1, as well as for the additional limitations they recite.

Claims 10-20

Claim 10 is not anticipated by Pickett. Claim 10 recites, "coupling the external telephone line to an auto attendant running on the first telecommunications system" and "coupling the telephone call to an auto attendant running on the second telecommunications system in response to the switching data." Applicants respectfully assert that Pickett does not teach or suggest at least these claim elements.

Pickett does not teach or suggest coupling a telephone call from a first auto attendant to a second auto attendant. Pickett merely discusses transferring calls from the office attendant type program "to other extensions, either inside the office or outside the office." (Pickett at col. 18, lines 30-32). There is no disclosure in Pickett that such extensions are auto attendants running on a second telecommunications system. For at least these reasons, claim 10 is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 11-20, which depend from claim 10, are in a condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 10, as well as for the additional limitations they recite.

Claims 21-29

Claim 21 recites, "coupling the telephone call to the centralized auto attendant." Applicants respectfully submit that Pickett does not teach or suggest at least this claim element.

Pickett does not teach or suggest a centralized auto attendant. As discussed in the specification, a centralized auto attendant provides benefits not available with the system discussed by Pickett. For example, in a company with multiple telecommunications systems, a centralized auto attendant provides the benefits of centralized administration, uniformity in menu structures and selections, and the like. (Specification at page 18, lines 1-3). Pickett merely discusses an office attendant type program running on computer 24 and does not teach or suggest

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a centralized auto attendant located at a second telecommunications system. For at least these reasons, claim 21 is in a condition for allowance.

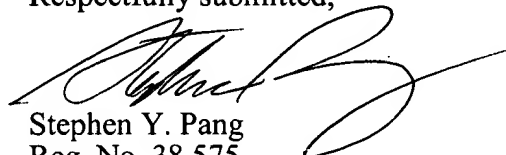
Claims 22-29, which depend from claim 21, are in a condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 21, as well as for the additional limitations they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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